



MARYLAND'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS

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What is a Professional Development School?

Success for all learners is at the heart of a Professional Development School. Its mission is lifelong learning by providing a place where future teachers, practicing teachers and college/university faculties learn together along with their students. Future teachers participating in a Professional Development School may be undergraduate or graduate students, depending on their college/university's program. They take part in a year-long internship, arriving at school in August at the same time as the teachers and participating throughout the year in all aspects of a teacher's life in the school.

Why establish a Professional Development School?

Since the mid-1980's, national school reform efforts have focused on the Professional Development School concept as an innovation which will lead to greater success for all learners. In 1995, after statewide teams studied ways to better train future teachers and prepare students, the *Redesign of Teacher Education* was issued by the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Maryland State Department of Education. It called for a strong academic foundation which would link changes in teacher education programs with school improvement efforts throughout Maryland. Because of its emphasis on learning by teachers as well as their students, the *Redesign* stresses the Professional Development School as the best structure for bringing together reforms for teaching and learning.

Who starts a Professional Development School?

A school or school system and a college/university can initiate a Professional Development School relationship. A key component of a Professional Development School is that it is a collaboration where all constituents work together to create a learning environment that meets the needs of all involved.

What are the benefits of a Professional Development School?

Students enrolled in Professional Development Schools benefit from being taught by teachers who are focused on teaching excellence. Also, Professional Development Schools have additional resources in terms of materials and the number of adults working with children. Future teachers participate in extended internships which enable them to truly experience all aspects of teaching.

Opportunities are provided for continued growth and development for current teachers and college and university faculty. Teacher education programs also benefit through having increased involvement in schools.

How are Professional Development Schools different from traditional schools?

Similar in many ways to traditional schools, Professional Development Schools are unique in a number of ways. For example, a Professional Development School may be comprised of one or several schools which include the college/university as part of its structure. Each Professional Development School has a unique character and may have a special emphasis such as technology, career preparation, reading, special education or early childhood education.

How are Professional Development Schools funded?

To date, 92 Professional Development Schools are part of a network which receives funds administered by the Maryland State Department of Education. Funding includes grants from the Maryland Higher Education Commission as well as grants from the U.S. Department of Education in the form of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Activities Grants, Goals 2000 Grants, and a Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant. Grants from the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor (Career Connections) have also supported Professional Development Schools. Participating schools, school systems, and colleges/universities also provide funding.

Where are Maryland's Professional Development Schools located?

The Maryland State Department of Education sponsors a statewide network of Professional Development Schools which receive funding administered by the state. Participating institutions of higher education include Anne Arundel Community College, Bowie State University, College of Notre Dame, Coppin State College, Frostburg State University, Goucher College, Hood College, Johns Hopkins University, Loyola College, Morgan State University, Mount St. Mary's College, Salisbury State University, St. Mary's College, Towson University, University of Maryland College Park, University of Maryland Baltimore County, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Villa Julie College, Washington College, and Western Maryland College.

Participating school districts which have Professional Development Schools in partnerships funded and administered by the state are Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, and Wicomico.

Other sites are emerging on the Eastern Shore as well as in Garrett and Washington Counties in the western part of the state.

For more information, contact the Program Approval and Assessment Branch of the Certification and Accreditation Division at 410-767-0390.